

Serial No. 10/721,494  
Art Unit 1725

**REMARKS**


Claims 2-7, 9-13, 16-18, 20-23, and 26-32 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claims 10-13 and 16 without prejudice. Thus, allowed claims 2-7, 9, 17-18, 20-23, and 26-32 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment, which is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,389,683 to Gannoe (Gannoe) and over Japanese Publication JPN 02-46971A to Kobayashi (Kobayashi). In the interest of expediting prosecution, claims 10-13 and 16 have been cancelled, rendering the rejections to these claims moot.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for issuance. Such action is solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

June 16, 2006

  
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